

Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (4/06)

Here's information about some of the programs at CTED that might help in your downtown revitalization efforts.

Downtown Revitalization/Washington State Main Street™ Program (360-725-4056)

The Washington State Main Street Program (WSDRP) helps communities throughout the state revitalize the economy, appearance, and image of their traditional business districts using a range of services and assistance to meet the needs of communities interested in revitalization. It uses the successful Main Street™ model developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street™ Program as its foundation for assistance. This approach emphasizes four critical areas of revitalization: *organization* helps everyone work towards the same goals and maximizes involvement of public and private leaders within the community; *promotion* brings people back downtown by helping to attract visitors, shoppers, and investors; *design* enhances a district's appearance and pedestrian amenities while preserving its historic features; and *economic restructuring* stimulates business development and helps strengthen the district's economic base.

The WSMSP provides access to information, help getting focused, and community support and guidance to individuals and organizations interested in downtown revitalization. It also serves as a general clearinghouse for the latest tools and techniques in downtown development. General information, primary and secondary research, project development assistance information, and audio-visual and resource materials are also available. Additional information about the program can be found at: www.downtown.wa.gov.

Business and Project Development (360-725-4179)

Business and Project Development works to help attract, retain, and expand businesses in Washington. This includes financial and technical assistance to both a business and community in site selection, retention and expansion. BPD also maintains the award winning www.choosewashington.com website.

Tourism Development (360-725-4100)

The Tourism Office utilizes advertising to increase awareness of the state as a travel destination and to encourage potential visitors to visit our state's tourism website: www.experiencewashington.com. Community-based tourism organizations have online access to add or change information on the website in order to attract visitors. The Tourism Office also provides updated consumer research, visitor profiles, and economic impact data to help communities better strategize their own marketing approaches. Research information is available at www.experiencewashington.com/industry.

Growth Management Services (360-725-3000)

Growth Management Services offers financial and technical assistance to local governments for planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA). This includes planning for downtown vitality, sprawl reduction, transportation, open space and parks, housing, urban design, historic preservation, and other topics.

The Planning Short Course provides evening or day training for planning commissioners, local officials, and citizens about land use planning and growth management in Washington. This can be scheduled in local communities as either a “Basic 101”- type training or a customized training to meet local priorities.

GMS also produces “About Growth”, a free quarterly newsletter on growth management planning in Washington. To be put on a mailing list for “About Growth”, or for a list of other available publications, call 360-725-3000 or visit their website at www.cted.wa.gov/growth.

Community Development Block Grant Program (360-725-3020)

CDBG General Purpose Grants are available annually through a competitive application process to assist non-entitlement cities, towns and counties in carrying out significant community and economic development projects principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. Examples of eligible general purpose proposals include:

- Public facilities (i.e., water, wastewater, storm sewer, and streets).
- Projects supporting housing rehabilitation projects.
- Economic development (i.e., revolving loan funds, public infrastructure, and incubators).
- Community facilities (i.e., community centers, health care facilities, food bank distribution centers, and headstart facilities).
- Comprehensive projects requiring a combination of activities such as housing rehabilitation and infrastructure improvements.
- Barrier removal for handicap accessibility.

CDBG Community Investment Fund Grants provide eligible communities the opportunity to access funds throughout the year for priority community and economic development projects. Technical assistance is provided to interested communities.

CDBG Planning-Only Grants provide support to eligible small communities and rural counties in carrying out planning activities that lead to the implementation of priority projects principally benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. Examples of eligible planning-only proposals include:

- Small area and neighborhood plans and facility feasibility studies.
- Strategies and action programs to implement plans, including the development of codes, ordinances and regulations.
- Value engineering planning.
- Infrastructure/capital improvement planning.

Child Care Advantages Program (360-725-4034)

The Child Care Advantages Program provides technical assistance to help businesses consider developing child care facilities for their employees. The program also provides qualified businesses with the opportunity to apply for direct loans and grants to start or expand child care facilities.

Business Finance Unit (360-725-4038)

The *Community Development Finance Program* helps business owners and entrepreneurs obtain financing for start-up and expansion projects. Staff members work with businesses to review project proposals, determine financing alternatives, design a financing structure, prepare and assemble applications, and present projects to appropriate lending authorities. Priority projects include creating employment opportunities in distressed and timber-impacted areas of the state, and supporting development of minority- and women-owned businesses. CDF staff are also well-versed in real estate financing techniques for businesses.

Housing (360-725-2995)

The Housing Trust Fund works in partnership with private lenders, other state agencies, local governments, and community-based housing developers to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing in communities throughout the state. This fund supports the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing units by leveraging funds from other public and private sources. The purpose of the program is to help communities meet the housing needs of low income and special needs populations by creating and preserving rental and homeownership opportunities statewide.

Community Economic Revitalization Board (360-725-4058)

The goal of the CERB program is to spur on creation and retention of higher wage jobs through financing publicly-owned economic development infrastructure in areas where growth is desired. CERB can invest in public infrastructure required by business and industry, and helps communities with site-specific economic development planning.

CERB supports the following business sectors: manufacturing, production, food processing, assembly, warehousing, industrial distribution, advanced technology and research and development, recycling facilities, or businesses that substantially support the trading of goods and services outside of the state's borders. In rural counties, CERB can support tourism development projects that meet the program's primary goal of supporting business growth and job creation.

Eligible public facilities include: bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, railroad spurs, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, general purpose industrial buildings and port facilities. CERB funds may not support a project that facilitates or promotes gambling as a primary purpose, retail development, or the

purchase of land or existing facilities. Feasibility and pre-development studies are opportunities in designated rural areas of the state.

CERB makes low-interest loans (and grants in unique circumstances) to applicants that can demonstrate financial need and have a funding gap that cannot reasonably be filled by another source. CERB contracts with local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes; CERB funds do not go to private business. For additional information, visit: www.cted.wa.gov/cerb.

Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (4/06)

Here's information about some of the programs at DAHP that might help in your downtown revitalization efforts.

The *Certified Local Government* (CLG) designation can be awarded to local governments that establish a historic preservation program meeting federal and state standards. Obtaining status as a CLG may help communities encourage, develop, and maintain their local preservation efforts in coordination with local development plans. In addition, CLGs may apply for special grants from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), obtain specialized technical assistance and training, participate in the National Register nomination process, and assist with statewide preservation programs and planning.

The *Historic Preservation Tax Certification Program* is one of the most useful incentives for encouraging preservation of our state's historic resources. This federal tax credit called the "Investment Tax Credit" is available for buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To be eligible for the 20 percent credit, properties must be income producing, which includes commercial, retail, office, lodging, residential rentals or industrial uses.

Washington State also has a property tax incentive called the "Special Valuation for Historic Properties" available to national and locally registered properties within CLG communities. This incentive is offered in nearly 50 local jurisdictions that have passed the special valuation legislation through ordinance. Special Valuation is available for both commercial and residential properties with rehabilitation costs equaling 25 percent or more of the building's assessed value. The rehabilitation costs are then subtracted from the assessed value of the property for a period of ten years.

The *National Register of Historic Places* and the *Washington Heritage Register* are two recognition programs administered by the DAHP. A listing on the National Register and/or the Washington Heritage Register is intended to provide recognition and convey distinction to those properties that help represent our local, state, or national heritage. Designations may include single properties or entire districts such as downtown Centralia or the Hillyard District in Spokane. Listings and associated preservation incentives are also intended to support efforts by property owners and communities to preserve properties for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of both present and future generations. To be listed on the National Register or the Washington Heritage Register, properties must meet certain criteria and retain their historic integrity. Restrictions or obligations on how the property owner uses or manages the resource are not imposed on properties that are on either list, except when receiving federal funding, a license, or permit.

Additional information can be found at www.dahp.wa.gov.